

RAMSEY COUNTY
History

A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Fall, 1994

Volume 29, Number 3



Chamber and Community
The Midway and Its Colorful History—Page 4



University and Snelling Avenues around 1916. Streetcars were in their heyday and their barns occupied the entire corner. See article beginning on page 4. Minnesota Historical Society photo.

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

Executive Director

Priscilla Farnham

Editor

Virginia Brainard Kunz

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William S. Fallon

Chairman of the Board

Joanne A. Englund

President

John M. Lindley

First Vice President

The Honorable Margaret M. Marrinan

Second Vice President

Richard A. Wilhoit

Secretary

James Russell

Treasurer

Arthur H. Baumeister, Jr., Thomas Boyd, John Harens, Marshall Hatfield, Liz Johnson, Laurie Murphy, Richard T. Murphy, Sr., Thomond O'Brien, Robert Olsen, Darrell Rooney, Evangeline Schroeder, Jane Thiele, and Laurie Zenner.

EDITORIAL BOARD

John M. Lindley, chairman; Thomas H. Boyd, Thomas C. Buckley, Charlton Dietz, Laurie M. Murphy, Dr. Thomas B. Mega.

HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD

Elmer L. Andersen, Coleman Bloomfield, Olivia I. Dodge, Charlton Dietz, William Finney, Clarence Frame, Otis Godfrey, Jr., Ronald Hachey, Reuel D. Harmon, Robert S. Hess, Ronald M. Hubbs, Fred T. Lanners, Jr., Don Larson, George Latimer, Lewis Lehr, David Marsden, Robert B. Mirick, Samuel H. Morgan, Marvin J. Pertzik, J. Jerome Plunkett, Peter S. Popovich, James Reagan, Rosalie E. Wahl, Donald D. Wozniak.

RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hal Norgard, chairman
Commissioner Diane Ahrens
Commissioner John Finley
Commissioner Ruby Hunt
Commissioner Warren Schaber
Commissioner Brenda Thomas
Commissioner Richard Wedell

Terry Schutten, manager, Ramsey County

Ramsey County History is published quarterly by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 323 Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55102. Printed in U.S.A. Copyright, 1994, Ramsey County Historical Society. ISSN Number 0485-9758. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission from the publisher. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.

RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 29, Number 3

Fall, 1994

CONTENTS

- 3** Letters
- 4** Chamber and Community
The Midway And Its Colorful History
Jane McClure
- 14-15** The Midway's Historic Sites Reflect Its Past
- 17** Spill-overs: The Midway and the 'Farm' Campus
- 21** Growing Up in St. Paul
Joanne Englund
Richard T. Murphy, Sr.
Dick Reiter
- 26** Books, Etc.
Andy Boss

Publication of *Ramsey County History* is supported in part by a gift from Clara M. Claussen and Frieda H. Claussen in memory of Henry H. Cowie, Jr., and by a contribution from Reuel D. Harmon.

A Message from the Editorial Board

This issue of *Ramsey County History* focuses exclusively on the Midway area of St. Paul. We have done this because the Midway Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary in October. As you will find in reading this issue, the story of the Midway area is rich and varied, ranging from the early days of settlement and statehood to the present period of industrial, commercial and residential vitality. The Editorial Board thanks the Midway Chamber of Commerce for its help in producing this issue of our magazine and congratulates the Chamber on its many contributions to the Midway area over the past seventy-five years.

John M. Lindley,
chairman, Editorial Board

The Midway's Historic Sites Reflect Its Past



Andrew R. McGill's St. Anthony Park home (above) was built in the 1880s. McGill was a Minnesota governor who lived there until his death in 1905. The house is a fine example of the Queen Anne style of architecture. St. Agnes Catholic Church (upper right) at 550 West Lafond Avenue was built between 1908 and 1912 to serve Frogtown's German-speaking Austro-Hungarian immigrant community.

Of the seventy-seven Ramsey County buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a third are in the Midway district. Ten are shown here, recognized for their association with important persons or events, architectural significance or relationship with important aspects of Minnesota history. Ramsey County Historical Society photos.



The Salvation Army Women's Home and Hospital (above) on Como Avenue has provided help for women and children since the turn-of-the-century. The hospital was completed in 1913 with the support of Joseph and William Elsinger. A three-story addition was added in 1923. Railroad contractor Jacob Hinkel built his splendid Italian Villa (left) on Brainerd Avenue in 1872.



George Luckert's home (above) on Iglehart, built in 1858–1859, may be the oldest known residence on St. Anthony Hill. The Triune Masonic Lodge (right) on Iglehart was organized in 1891 and its Beaux Arts building constructed in 1910. The A. J. Krank Manufacturing Company building (below), with its colorful terra cotta panels, was built in 1926 at 1885 West University.



The Como Park Conservatory (below), inspired by the "crystal palace" designs of Victorian England, was built in 1914. Hamline University's "old Main" (bottom) dates from 1887 and Macalester College's administration building (below, left) from 1884–1887.





Hamline Park Playground candidates for one of the Midway's Winter Carnivals, probably 1929 or 1930. Can anyone identified these young women? Midway Chamber of Commerce photo. See article beginning on Page 4.

R.C.H.S.
RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Published by the Ramsey County Historical Society
323 Landmark Center
75 West Fifth Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Paul, MN
Permit #3989